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diameter of said opening portion and said another corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said body portion being located within the vertical plane which contains said cross-sectional diameter of said body portion.

D2

9. (Twice Amended) The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article further has a plastic layer on at least one of the outer and the inner surfaces thereof.

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13. (Amended) The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said molded article is obtained by heat drying under pressing a wet pulp deposited body onto the inner wall of a mold.

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14. (Amended) The molded article according to claim 9, wherein said plastic layer is obtained by applying a resin solution or a resin emulsion on said molded article.

Please add new Claims 15-32 as shown below:

D4

15. (New) The molded article according to claim 9, wherein said plastic layer is obtained by laminating a plastic film on said molded article while said molded article is heated to a predetermined temperature, followed by gradual cooling.

16. (New) The molded article according to claim 9, wherein said plastic layer is formed by vacuum forming or pressure forming.

17. (New) A molded article comprised of pulp and having:  
an opening portion;  
a body portion; and  
a bottom portion, wherein:  
said body portion has no seams,  
the outer and inner surfaces of said article have a center-line average roughness of less than or approximately equal to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  
said molded article is formed by inflating a pressing member by feeding a pressurizing fluid into said pressing member at a pressure between approximately 0.01 MPa and approximately 5.0 MPa, and  
said body portion has at least one cross-sectional diameter that is greater than a corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said opening portion or greater than another corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said body portion, said corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said opening portion and said another corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said body portion being located within the vertical plane that contains said cross-sectional diameter of said body portion.

18. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein all the cross-sectional diameters of said body portion are greater than corresponding cross-sectional diameters of said opening portion, each of said corresponding cross-sectional diameters of said opening portion being located within the vertical plane that contains each of said cross-sectional diameters of said body portion.

19. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has no seams over the portion from said body portion to said bottom portion.

20. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a screw thread on said opening portion.

21. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a density of approximately  $0.4 \text{ g/cm}^3$  to approximately  $2.0 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

22. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a moisture permeability of approximately  $100 \text{ g/(m}^2 \cdot 24 \text{ hr)}$  or less.

23. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a corner whose thickness is greater than a thickness of other portions of said molded article.

24. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said opening portion has a thick-walled portion which is thicker than said body portion and said bottom portion, said thick-walled portion being formed on the area from the top edge of said opening portion to a prescribed depth continuously or discontinuously over the whole circumference of said opening portion.

25. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article further includes a plastic layer on at least one of the outer and the inner surfaces.

26. (New) The molded article according to claim 25, wherein said plastic layer is obtained by applying a resin solution or a resin emulsion on said molded article.

27. (New) The molded article according to claim 25, wherein said plastic layer is obtained by laminating a plastic film on said molded article while said molded article is heated to a predetermined temperature, followed by gradual cooling.

28. (New) The molded article according to claim 25, wherein said plastic layer is formed by vacuum forming or pressure forming.

10 29. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a multilayered structure comprising:

a first pulp layer;

a second pulp layer; and

a mixed layer located between said first pulp layer and said second pulp layer, wherein said second pulp layer is different from said first pulp layer in composition, and

wherein said mixed layer has a continuous gradient in composition in which a composition of said mixed layer changes from a composition of said first pulp layer to a composition of said second pulp layer.

30. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article is prepared from, as a paper stock, a slurry containing pulp fiber having an average fiber length of approximately 0.8 mm to approximately 2.0 mm, a Canadian Standard

Freeness of approximately 100 cc to 600 cc, and a frequency distribution of fiber length comprising approximately 20% to approximately 90%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from approximately 0.4 mm to approximately 1.4 mm and approximately 5% to approximately 50%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length is longer than about 1.4 mm and not longer than approximately 3.0 mm.

31. (New) The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article includes a multilayered structure having an outermost layer and an innermost layer, wherein:

a pulp slurry configured to be used for forming said outermost layer contains pulp fibers having an average fiber length of approximately 0.2 mm to approximately 1.0 mm, a Canadian Standard Freeness of approximately 50 cc to 600 cc, and a frequency distribution of fiber length comprising approximately 50% to approximately 95%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from approximately 0.4 mm to approximately 1.4 mm, and

a pulp slurry configured to be used for forming said innermost layer contains pulp fibers having an average length of approximately 0.8 mm to approximately 2.0 mm, a Canadian Standard Freeness of approximately 100 cc to 600 cc, and a frequency distribution of fiber length comprising approximately 20% to approximately 90%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from approximately 0.4 mm to approximately 1.4 mm and approximately 5% to approximately 50%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length is longer than about 1.4 mm and not longer than approximately 3.0 mm.